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# Village Recognized For Rain Garden Efforts

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recently recognized Niles for its continuing efforts to "go green" spotlighting a large rain garden Niles constructed in a public private partnership with Coca Cola.

Phase one of construction on the rain garden, located at 7098 W. Touhy Ave., was in the spring of 2008 and phase two was completed last spring.

The project contains 2,754 square feet of rain garden and 1,866 square feet of prairie grass area both holding over 2,000 native plantings.

The rain garden captures rainwater allowing it to slowly seep into the ground using native plantings to help prevent flooding during major rain events and to purify rain water of pollutants.

At about three quarters of an acre, the garden is one of the largest of its kind in Cook County.

CMAP is featuring the rain garden as an example of exemplary green practices other communities in Northeastern Illinois might emulate.

Assistant Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said establishing support and community "buy-in" from municipal leaders, potential donors and the entire community early was key to the success of the project.

Coca Cola and a number of other businesses and civic organizations made major contributions of both money and labor to make the project possible.

CMAP is the official planning agency for Northeastern Illinois responsible for regional planning as mandated by the state and federal governments.

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